

PROFESSIONAL GOLF CHAMPIONS TO-DAY LUCKIER THAN PREDECESSORS

OPEN THE GREAT
LITTLE DECADE AGO

Old Timers of Game Found It
Difficult to Capitalize
Honors.

McDERMOTT AN EXAMPLE

First Homebred to Win Open
Championship Got Few
Matches.

By KERR N. PETRIE.

There was a time when professional golf champions could not command \$250 for an exhibition game or play a match for several thousand dollars. That was the case a decade ago. Lately there has been an outcry in high places against the offering of large purses in open tournaments, but as this is one result of the natural evolution and growth of the game it will be about as easy to stop it as to stem the tide with a pitchfork.

Nevertheless it must be galling to the champions of a dozen years or so ago to see how the title holders of the present generation run their incomes up by capitalizing their championships. Back in 1912, say, when Jack McDermott was open champion, there was little or no capitalizing. Players such as Alex Smith and Gil Nicholls had pretty much a free run of the exhibitions. McDermott joined the group, naturally, but in those days the professionals thought they were lucky if they got \$50 for their games.

This is no argument as to why the present day champions should not receive more for their services. It only proves that ten or a dozen years ago a champion was that much ahead of the golden egg. Ten years from now the chances are that the stars of the game will be receiving still more. But if the prices do not go up there will be more exhibitions because there will be vasty more clubs to hold them.

No Trouble Ten Years Ago.

Not many weeks ago the United States Golf Association sent to its member clubs a circular deprecating the giving of large purses and warning the clubs and sectional associations that if the practice is not stopped it will result in the creating of a class of professionals who will devote their entire time to playing in tournaments. Ten years ago the U. S. G. A. did not have to give a thought to such a question as this, and simply because there was little or no demand for exhibitions by the clubs. The money was not being put into the game and therefore could not be taken out of it.

Now the U. S. G. A. is dealing with a condition that has come about through the natural process of evolution. Golf called into being the golf professionals, and the golf professionals, in turn, called into being the clubs and sectional associations that are now making the game a business. It is because it wants them. Nor is it reasonable to suppose that there should arise a class of golf professionals who devote their entire time and attention to attending tournaments these will be able to assist if golf is not willing to support them.

Jack McDermott's Case.

McDermott, without a doubt, is first in the line of hard luck golfers. His straitened circumstances, which he has words how little he actually got out of the championships that he won. Had he come on ten years later and maintained his health he probably would have been out on the road with his clubs, Huthinson and Kirkwood. Jack had two good jobs of course. He also had two trips to Great Britain, but what he did manage to save out of it he alloted to his career at the top was soon eaten up when his health laid him out for good. Then there was Willie Anderson, Gough and Sarazen. Gough and Sarazen were nearly as brilliant as the present day run of stars, Jack and Willie may be considered by many to belong to the old time school of players who did not deserve to be classed with Hagen and Sarazen. Nothing could be further from the truth. There were great fighters before the present day greats. Hagen, Sarazen and Anderson came up to the peak of their games the last three years or so it would have been simply that Hagen, Sarazen, Barnes, Huthinson and the like would have had just that much more opposition. Quite possibly Sarazen still would have been knocking at the door, dark horse, with Skolke still somewhere in the future.

Anderson was open champion in 1901, 1903, 1904 and 1905 and sixth in 1902. They played golf those days too, with implements that were slightly different from those of the present day. The scores may seem to indicate that the standard was much lower than at present. As a matter of fact the game actually was much harder.

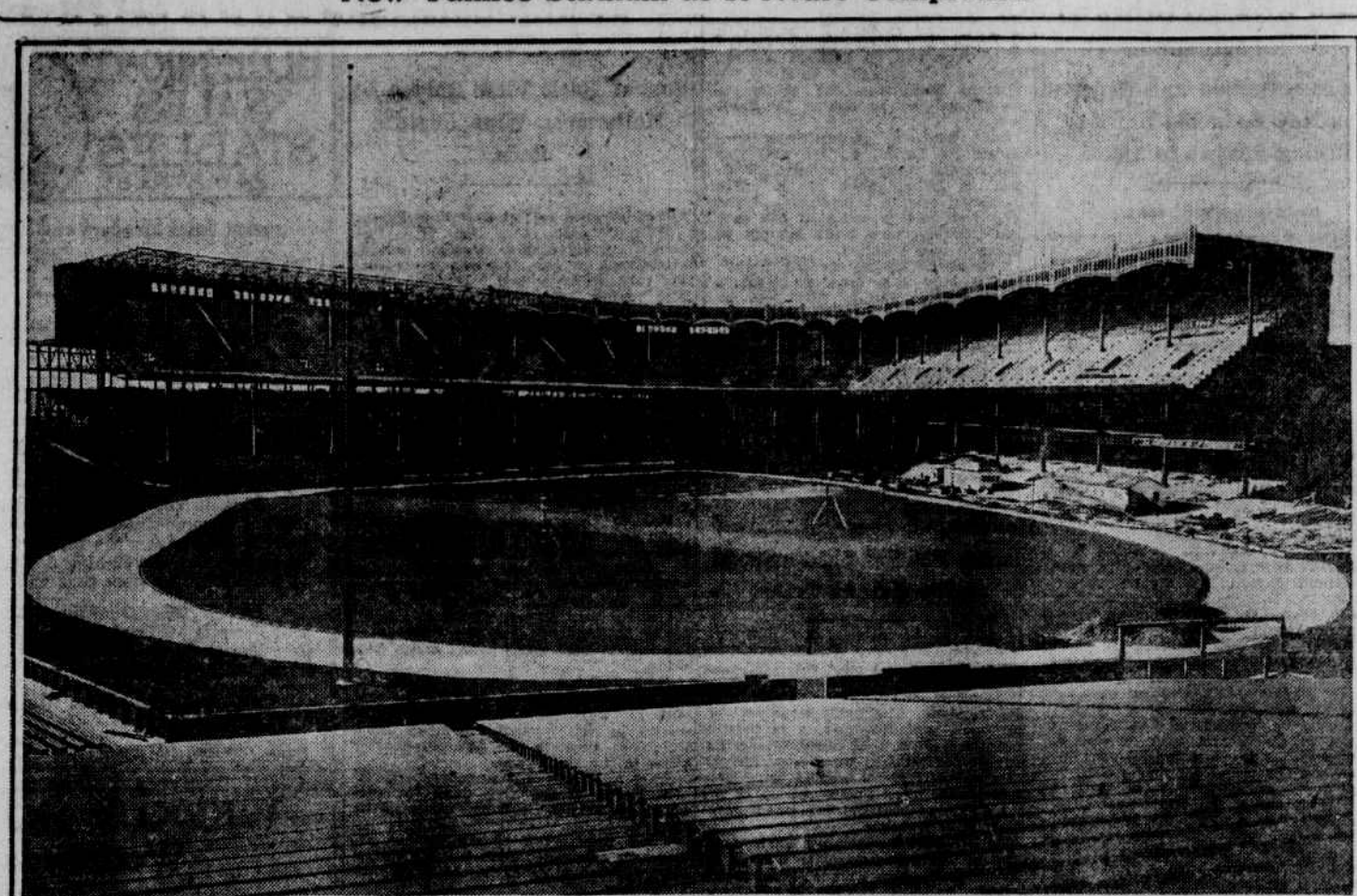
A striking indication of the great change was given at the last national amateur championship at Brookline, Mass., when the qualifying scores ruled four or five strokes a round lower than they had been in 1910.

Willie Anderson's day was something of a wizard. He died practically penniless. This it may be said was Willie's fault. To some extent this may be true. However, there was nothing like the money in the game twenty years ago that there is now.

One of the most sensational open championships of the first decade of the present century was the George Sargent, who came from obscurity to lead the field at Englewood in 1903 with a score of 290. Only once before had 290 been bettered in the national open. The record stood to the credit of Alex Smith, who with 295 had won on Onwentsia in 1906.

Sargent's play was indeed sensational. He had rounds of 75, 72, 72, 71, but when George went out to get a few matches he found that there was little demand for this sort of thing. Some enthusiasts over in Forest Park, Brooklyn, arranged to have Sargent play the best ball of a pair of their local stars. That was the end of the 1908 championship. Sargent would not be able to keep himself in bread and butter.

New Yankee Stadium as It Nears Completion

DR. SHORT WINNER
OF 'SURPRISE SHOOT'

'Bird' Shot First in Novel
Event at New York Athletic Club Traps.

It was an exceptionally busy day at the Travers Island traps of the New York Athletic Club yesterday. For the first time in many years there was a shoot in the morning in addition to the regular week end shoot. The morning shoot was an invitation affair. It was called a "surprise shoot," as the nimble and not know the conditions until they reached the firing line.

The conditions were decidedly novel. The traps were used and the targets were thrown at all possible angles, some flying back toward the men on the firing line. The idea was to give the nimble an opportunity to shoot under conditions that rule in "field shooting," rather than the ones they generally find on the firing line. Forty-six gunners took part in the shoot. The winner proved to be Dr. W. B. Short, a well known "bird" shot, who broke 15 out of a possible 20 targets. The winners of the other prizes and their totals were: W. A. Flinn, 14; J. E. Hutchings, 14; H. G. Vogel, 14; T. D. Dunne, 14; G. H. Martin, 13; D. S. McCutcheon, 13, and F. J. Ham, 13. Fifty-nine gunners took part in the regular shoot during the afternoon. The winner of the high scratch prize was T. H. Lewis, who had the excellent total of 97 out of a possible 100 targets. There was the usual tie for the high handicap cup. On the shootoff, the trophy went to H. D. Meeker, who also won the Take Home cup of the day. He also scored a leg on both the Haslin and the Monthly cups.

There was no other winner on the Monthly cup. In the Haslin cup shoot G. G. Hirsch, E. M. Hersey and W. A. Flinn tied Meeker, all having full scores of 50 targets. The day was not particularly good and as a result the scores were not high.

The scores:			
Name.	T. I.	Has Month Sc.	Cups
F. J. Spring.	4	65	43
J. G. Hirsch.	4	65	44
L. K. Curtis.	4	65	44
J. I. Kimball.	4	65	44
R. Dechard.	4	65	44
N. C. Webb.	4	65	44
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